

JANUARY WRITING PROMPTS *for Teens*

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Write a paragraph or two in which you persuade a friend to break a habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health. Back up your argument with logic, examples, and facts.

CREATIVE Imagine you've washed up on a South Seas island. Are you happy to remain here, or do you want to be rescued? You decide to send five different messages in a bottle, either asking for help or explaining your decision to stay. What will you write in each message?

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you think receiving an allowance promotes financial responsibility, or does it contribute to a sense of entitlement? Should an allowance be given with no strings attached, or should it be earned through chores or good grades? Explain your reasons why parents should or should not give an allowance to their teens.

EXPOSITORY Think about some of the ways you like to spend your free time. Choose one, and write an essay describing this activity.

REFLECTIVE Write about your first name: Does it suit you? What is its significance? Do you like it?

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Your local Chamber of Commerce has asked you to create a brochure to attract visitors to your hometown. Write an essay convincing others to visit. Include details about three different attractions, historical locations, or special events.

CREATIVE Write a poem or story using the following words: *red, swing, squeak, envelope, gust, photo, exhilarating*.

ARGUMENTATIVE Many people believe violent video games negatively impact society because they promote violence. Do you agree or disagree? Support your response with examples and logic.

EXPOSITORY Your parents have decided it's time for you to get a part-time job. Write an essay explaining the steps you need to follow in order to apply for a job.

REFLECTIVE Have you lived or traveled overseas? Held an interesting or unusual job? Participated in a sport that challenged you physically and mentally? Think about an unusual experience or incident from your life. Write a reflective essay explaining how that experience has influenced you and caused you to grow as a person.

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WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE What is one of your favorite films? Write an essay in which you persuade someone to watch this movie.

CREATIVE You get a summer job working for your neighbor, but after three days he fires you! Is it because of something you did? Are you embarrassed or relieved? What will you tell your parents? Write a short story telling what happened.

ARGUMENTATIVE Would you want to become the president or prime minister of your country? Why or why not? Write an essay developing three reasons for your choice.

EXPOSITORY Discuss the pros and cons of living in the city versus living in the rural countryside.

REFLECTIVE The Roman poet Horace first wrote the words *carpe diem*, a familiar Latin phrase that means seize the day. Write what these words mean to you. What is your plan to make the most of each day?

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Think of five unforgettable, inspirational, or life-changing books that have impacted you. Which one do you think should be required reading for everyone? Write an essay in which you persuade others to read this book. Support your position with three main points.

CREATIVE In detail, describe a vehicle, piece of furniture, or musical instrument you can create from three or more of following discarded or broken items: old bicycle, soda bottles, aluminum cans, rope, CDs, blue jeans, dresser drawers, broom handles, wooden crates, car tires, PVC pipe, shoeboxes, clock, batteries, wire, marbles.

ARGUMENTATIVE How much time do you spend enjoying nature and the great outdoors? Do you agree that today's kids are nature-deprived? Include reasons and examples to support your opinion.

EXPOSITORY Think of the most unusual person you have known: their personality, their external qualities, and their unique point of view (background and special knowledge). Try to capture this amazing person on paper.

REFLECTIVE Are you a risk taker, or do you usually play it safe? Write about a time when you decided to take a chance.